

# News Release



**For Immediate Release:**

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## **Disaster Unemployment Assistance available for individuals affected by severe storms, tornadoes**

**LITTLE ROCK** - Individuals who have become unemployed as a direct result of the severe storms and tornadoes occurring in seven Arkansas counties April 1 to April 3, 2006, may be eligible for Disaster Unemployment Assistance, according to Artee Williams, the director of the Department of Workforce Services.

At the request of Gov. Mike Huckabee, President George Bush on April 12, 2006, declared Conway, Cross, Fulton, Greene, Lawrence, Randolph and White counties federal disaster areas. Among the different types of assistance available to individuals and households by the president's declaration is unemployment assistance. Individuals who have temporarily lost jobs because of the disaster and do not qualify for regular unemployment benefits (such as self-employed individuals) may be eligible for DUA, which provides unemployment benefits for up to 28 weeks.

DUA claims may be filed at the following DWS offices:

Conway County	Russellville Local Office, 104 S. Rochester	(479) 968-2784
	Conway Local Office, 1500 N. Museum Road, Ste 111	(501) 730-9894
Cross County	Forrest City Local Office, 2615 S. Washington	(870) 633-2900
	West Memphis Local Office 202 Shoppingway, Ste A	(870) 400-2269
Fulton County	Batesville Local Office, 396 Barnett Drive	(870) 793-4156
	Mountain Home Local Office, 1058 Highland Circle, #20	(870) 425-2386
Greene County	Paragould Local Office, 400 E. Kingshighway	(870) 236-8512
	Jonesboro Local Office, 2311 E. Nettleton Ave.	(870) 935-5594
Lawrence County	Walnut Ridge Local Office, 116 W. Elm St.	(870) 886-3556
	Paragould Local Office, 400 E. Kingshighway	(870) 236-8512
	Newport Local Office, 401 Walnut St.	(870) 523-3641
Randolph County	Walnut Ridge Local Office, 116 W. Elm St.	(870) 886-3556
	Paragould Local Office, 400 E. Kingshighway	(870) 236-8512

White County	Searcy Local Office, 501 W. Arch St.	(501) 268-8601
	Batesville Local Office, 396 Barnett Drive	(870) 793-4156
	Newport Local Office, 401 Walnut St.	(870) 523-3641

Eligible persons have 30 days beginning April 14, 2006, and ending May 15, 2006, to file for DUA. DUA claims will be taken at these DWS offices Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Hours will be extended as needed, and additional locations may be announced in the future. DWS offices also will provide re-employment assistance where appropriate.

To be eligible for DUA, individuals must have worked or have been scheduled to work in the disaster area, but because of the disaster no longer had a job, a place to work in the area or could not get to their place of work because of disaster damage; or they must have been prevented from working by an injury or illness resulting from the disaster; or must have become the head of household and need employment because the head of the household died as a result of the disaster. DUA assistance also may be available to self-employed individuals who have lost all or part of their livelihood as a result of the disaster.

Each claim is considered individually; therefore, individuals who believe they may be eligible for assistance should bring their Social Security card, the name and address of their last employer, documents verifying income (i.e. income tax statements, pay stubs or W-2 forms (Schedules SE and Schedule C or Schedule F) or other proof of net income for 2005.

DWS officials understand that because of property losses, some claimants may not have necessary information available. Although some delays may result without this information, DWS staff will make every effort to confirm employment information and expedite the claims process.